

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas Governor Candidate Questionnaire

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Political Party Affiliation: Democratic

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<https://www.facebook.com/andersen2018/videos/214389482508297/>

Occupation/Work History (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

Family and occupational medicine physician in Lansing, KS. Andersen Medical Group, LLC, USAFR Colonel/Flight Surgeon, Sustainable Agriculture teacher/consultant, farmer.

If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:

American Osteopathic Association of Prolotherapy Regenerative Medicine member and current president.

Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

Shriners and Masonic Lodge

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (10 words or less per issue)

Healthcare reform and expansion of Medicaid at half the current cost - improved quality; Education funding esp. early childhood, K-12 and Com College; Human rights protections for all.

What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (100 words or less)

Current tax policy places excessive burden on those least capable to pay. Everyone enjoys the benefits of public programs from roads/bridges, internet, police/fire dept, agency oversight, education, courts, fisheries and wildlife, dept of Ag, etc. We need a full audit of these agencies for efficiency and efficacy and then fund them fully for the best possible outcome as well to maximize public safety, environmental protection, and human rights. We must pay our bills and that means the State debt which requires revenue in excess of operations.

With record low unemployment rates, what would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)

The best jobs bill is a great education bill. That must include vocational training and apprenticeships. Form more partnerships with skilled labor unions and businesses to train young people; cover the cost of community college tuition in exchange for the student staying in Kansas for an agreed exchange, perhaps 2 years working for every year of education covered. We overhaul Medicaid so more are covered relieving the burden on small businesses to provide coverage.

What are your views on funding K-12 education? (75 words or less)

We must better fund and support the classrooms and especially STEM programs as they provide young people the best employment opportunities. We must as teachers what they need to achieve

this mission and fund them fully. The KASB report shows that about 47% of every education dollar goes for classroom funding, that may very well be insufficient. We must fully fund special needs IEP's whose numbers are increasing rapidly.

What would your priorities be in any new statewide transportation plan? (50 words or less)

We first audit the current infrastructure and address all the repairs that have been put off in the recent past. At the same time we revisit the engineering specs assigned to our infrastructure and upgrade them to longer lasting structures/roads. Then we consider needed new construction.

Do you support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? (50 words or less)

It's the legislature's responsibility to fund programs. Recent legislatures have robbed the SHF to make the budget balance, deferring needed infrastructure projects so either way the legislators are determining funding levels. The real question is whether the Governor takes the initiative to set infrastructure as a priority. I will.

What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (50 words or less)

The best jobs bill is a great education bill. Overhaul Medicaid to double the number of people covered at half the cost puts all that money into the Kansas economy as healthcare business. Diversify Kansas agricultural crops including hemp and medical marijuana to generate new businesses both growing and processing.

What are your views on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)

Yes we need to increase worker visas especially for the skilled/professional jobs areas unfilled in Kansas. This generates more spin off business and state revenue. Lobby for legislative change. I support a purple card system for those in-country now and get on with fixing healthcare, human rights and other issues.

What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education? (50 words or less)

The State budget needs to spend a higher percentage of higher education dollars on community and junior colleges as a much higher percentage of Kansas students will use that than the 4 years schools. The state can partner with businesses and unions to extend apprenticeships, internships and cost sharing.

What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (50 words or less)

First deprivatize to remove the private siphoning of public tax dollars out of the State; 2nd work to get medication price negotiation and competitive punching, 3rd do the same with laboratory and

radiology services, cutting the cost per patient in half, doubling the number covered, then expand with better management.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (50 words or less)

Healthcare is the most pressing issue in Kansas and the Nation. See my answer to 15. Further, we need to encourage Direct Primary Care as an option for middle class Kansans. Integrate more preventive and holistic medical therapies, protect local small business compounding pharmacies, integrate mental health and nutritional therapy.

What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)

Teaching sustainable eco-agriculture to farmers and consultants around the world which has resulted in thousands of farmers on every continent growing crops with higher than standard yield, nutrient density, and profitability all with reducing or eliminating the need for pesticides and herbicides, greater carbon sequestration, double soil water holding capacity.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)

Family and occupational medicine, senior military leadership training, biological farming and environmental expertise, public health training, international business experience. I've solutions to healthcare, education, agricultural sustainability, environmental protection, human rights, infrastructure, economic development, mental healthcare, prison reform, public safety. I'm the only candidate with hands-on experience in all these areas.